



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

██████████
Docket No. 3392-25
Ref: Signature Date

██████████
████████████████████
████████████████████

Dear ██████████

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552. After careful and conscientious consideration of relevant portions of the service member's naval record (hereinafter referred to as "SM") and your application, the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) found the evidence submitted insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. Consequently, your application has been denied.

Although your application was not filed in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider your case on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 25 August 2025. The names and votes of the panel members will be furnished upon request. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of the Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of your naval record, applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

SM enlisted in the Navy on 13 October 1950 and commenced a period of active duty. During his service, on 23 February 1969, SM was deployed to ██████████ in support of combat operations during the ██████████ conflict. On 7 June 1969, SM sustained injuries when the gasoline tank on his truck exploded from an undetermined cause. SM ultimately completed twenty years of Honorable active service and transferred to the Fleet Reserve on 16 December 1970.

On 28 December 2024, Navy Personnel Command (NPC), responded to your request that the Purple Heart Medal (PH) be awarded to SM for his actions during the ██████████ conflict. NPC denied your request, stating that "before the Purple Heart can be awarded there must be adequate documentation that an individual was wounded as a direct or indirect result of enemy action, or as the result of friendly weapons fire while actively engaging the enemy."

The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interest of justice warrant relief in SM's case. These included, but were not limited to, your desire that the PH Medal be awarded to SM and your contentions that: (1) SM sustained injuries

during his service in ██████████ but was never awarded the PH Medal, (2) SM was entitled to the PH Medal based on the Secretary of the Navy Military Awards Manual (SECNAV M-1650.1), dated August 2019, (3) SECNAV M-1650.1 states that the PH Medal is “awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with an Armed Force of the United States were wounded, killed, or died of wounds received under the following circumstances: (a) In action against an enemy of the United States,” and (4) your father served in ██████████, ██████████ and was wounded while performing duties in support of action against an enemy of the United States.

After a thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, in reviewing SM’s record, the Board concurred with NPC’s finding that the record or evidence provided does not support the awarding of the PH Medal to SM. The record reflects that SM sustained injuries when the gasoline tank on his truck exploded. However, the cause of the explosion was undetermined and there is no documentation establishing that his injuries were the result of enemy action or qualifying friendly fire as required by SECNAV M-1650.1.

While the Board carefully considered your contentions, it relies on the presumption of regularity to support official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, presumes they have properly discharged their official duties. Ultimately, the Board determined the evidence you submitted was insufficient to overcome this presumption. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board concluded that your request does not merit relief.

The Board noted that unit histories and command chronologies for Navy and Marine Corps units are available online. A research of these records through the following websites may lead to evidence in support of your claim:

- U.S. Navy Command Operations Reports and Unit Histories:
https://www.history.navy.mil/research/archives/Collections/operational-records.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- U.S. Marine Corps Command Chronologies:
<https://www.usmcu.edu/Research/Marine-Corps-History-Division/Command-Chronologies/>

The Board acknowledges your father’s heroic, selfless, and Honorable service to our Nation, and extends its deepest condolences for your loss.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon the submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in

[REDACTED]